

Message Text

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UNCLAS WARSAW 4285

OPCENTER PLEASE PASS TO VOA (POLISH SERVICE)

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: VISIT OF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

1. U.S. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BOB BERGLAND LEFT POLAND FOR HUNGARY TODAY (MAY 20) AFTER WHAT HE TERMED A "FINE VISIT, VERY PRODUCTIVE." DURING HIS THREE-DAY STAY ON WARSAW, SECRETARY BERGLAND MET WITH FIRST SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK, PRIME MINISTER PIOTR JAROSZEWICZ AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE LEON KLONICA, AS WELL AS WITH MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS EMIL WOJTASZEK AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MARITIME ECONOMY JERZY OLSZEWSKI.

2. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE SHORTLY BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE, SECRETARY BERGLAND SAID THAT POLISH OFFICIALS HAD INDICATED THEIR INTEREST IN PURCHASE OF U.S. GRAINS AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AHEAD. HE SAID THE UNITED STATES WOULD DO ALL IT COULD TO SATISFY THOSE NEEDS, THOUGH NO FORMAL ARRANGEMENT WAS MADE FOR MINIMUM OR MAXIMUM PURCHASES.

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3. DURING THE CURRENT, 1977-1978 MARKETING YEAR, POLAND WILL IMPORT MORE THAN THREE MILLION METRIC TONS OF GRAIN AND FEED FROM THE UNITED STATES. THE U.S. COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION HAS GRANTED POLAND USDOL500 MILLION DOLLARS IN CREDITS TO FINANCE THESE PURCHASES.

4. POLAND'S NEEDS FOR FUTURE FINANCING WERE DISCUSSED,

SECRETARY BERGLAND SAID, NOTING THAT FUTURE FINANCING POSSIBILITIES WILL DEPEND IN PART ON VARIOUS LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS PENDING IN CONGRESS.

5. SECRETARY BERGLAND SAID THAT IN HIS TALKS WITH POLISH OFFICIALS BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT WORLD-WIDE COOPERATION IS NEEDED TO MEET GROWING FOOD DEMANDS. NOTING THAT WORLD FOOD REQUIREMENTS ARE LIKELY TO DOUBLE IN THE NEXT 40 YEARS, SECRETARY BERGLAND SAID, "THE MATTER MUST BE DEALT WITH IN A GLOBAL CONTEXT." THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS "FIRMLY COMMITTED TO THE IDEA OF INTERNATIONAL COMMODITY AGREEMENTS" FOR A WIDE RANGE OF GOODS, FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER PRODUCTS, HE ADDED.

6. IN ADDITION TO HIS OFFICIAL VISITS, SECRETARY BERGLAND VISITED A PRIVATE FARM IN SKIERNIEWICE PROVINCE AND THE WALEWICE STATE FARM, WHICH HE SAID WAS AS "MODERN AND EFFICIENT AS ANY FARM I'VE SEEN IN THE WORLD.

7. POLAND WAS THE THIRD STOP ON SECRETARY BERGLAND'S TRIP WHICH HAS TAKEN HIM TO THE SOVIET UNION AND NORWAY; AFTER HUNGARY HE WILL TRAVEL TO ROMANIA AND UNITED KINGDOM BEFORE RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES.

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